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‘Those People Needed Help’

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'Those People Needed Help'

By Konner Dent



Jonathan Logan

▲ KhaiKhai Cin

A JUNIOR RELIGION MAJOR AT

Andrews University (and before that, Grand Rapids Adventist Academy), KhaiKhai Cin recently completed a two-year internship with the Hope Adventist company in Indianapolis. As he worked closely with the Burmese refugees in Indianapolis, KhaiKhai's ministry took many different forms, each one a witnessing opportunity. Along with evangelistic seminars, vacation Bible schools (VBS) and assisting with the Zomi Burmese camp meeting, KhaiKhai also regularly helped refugees (most of them not yet Adventists) with translation services and job hunting opportunities. "A lot of social work was needed," reflected KhaiKhai. "I didn't ask why we did it because I understood — those people needed help. I know what it feels like to be in need, whether it's [because of] a language barrier, financial aid, stress or anxieties. We helped because it was 'Christ's method alone' (see Ellen White, *Ministry of Healing*, pg. 143; emphasis supplied).

A refugee himself, KhaiKhai came to America with his family in 2012. "Currently,

our country [Burma] is moving towards a democratic government. It has a president now, but back then it was a military dictatorship. Because of that, there are a lot of people fleeing."

This tumultuous landscape has engendered a close-knit Burmese community, yet varied in belief systems. Often, traditional ministry has to be adapted for both size and worldview.

"[In 2016] we did a VBS in three different locations. This summer we did it at five," said KhaiKhai. "We had 135 students, and close to 95 were not Adventist [members] — some Buddhist, some [others] Christian." To adapt, KhaiKhai stated that they kept the ministry aspect, but held it where the refugee kids were. "We held it in a community center, under a tree, and at some people's houses!"

KhaiKhai is encouraged by Jesus' words: *For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in* (Matthew 25:35 NIV). "Refugees coming here really need help," he said. "Within the church, the refugee ministry is just starting, and I would like to see it supported more."

He hopes to further his ministry by continuing to work with the Myanmar Community Services, setting up a Pathfinder Club for local Zomi Burmese youth, and is currently working on completing his Master Guide requirements. ■

Konner Dent is a Journalism major at Andrews University.

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